

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An actuator panel for a control system on a powered machine having a frame having a pivoting control lever, said control lever having a shaft
5 portion extending outwardly from a pivot axis of the control lever, the control system and the control lever being mounted on the frame for controlling a ground drive for the frame, the actuator panel being pivotally mounted on said frame, said actuator panel
10 being urged in a first direction extending outwardly from the frame, and having an actuator bracket mounted thereon adjacent to the shaft portion, the actuator bracket moving to engage the control lever and to move the control lever to a selected position
15 from a first position when the actuator panel pivots toward the frame.

2. The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein said frame is the frame of a machine that is self-propelled, and said control controls movement of the
20 frame in a direction of movement such the actuator panel is leading the movement, the actuator panel pivoting in an opposite direction to move the control lever to its neutral position.

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3. The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein said actuator bracket is adjustably mounted on the actuator panel.

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4. The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein said actuator panel is pivotally mounted on the frame at a first location adjacent the rear of the powered machine, and tapers rearwardly and downwardly at an angle.

5. The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein the control lever is mounted on a valve block, an actuator spool in said valve block and said actuator spool being linearly moveable and having a portion pivotally mounted to the lever at a second pivot spaced from the pivot of the lever to the valve block, the control lever including an actuator rod extending in a direction toward the pivoting actuator panel.

6. The actuator panel of claim 5, wherein said valve block has a pair of spools, and two levers, each of the levers controlling movement of a drive for the machine frame, in fore and aft directions of movement, said levers being engageable with the actuator bracket in a first position of each of said levers which causes the frame to be propelled.

7. The actuator panel of claim 5, wherein said valve block is mounted adjacent a rear panel of the frame, said actuator panel being pivotally mounted to the rear portion of the frame and to the rear of said valve block, the actuator rod on said control lever

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extending between the pivotal mounting of the actuator panel and the pivotal mounting of the lever to the valve block, the actuator bracket engaging the rod at a position between the rear of the frame and the valve block.

8. The actuator panel of claim 7, wherein said valve block and a pivotal axis of the pivoting actuator panel are closely adjacent in lateral and fore and aft directions.

9. The actuator panel of claim 4, wherein said pivoting actuator has a major portion extending rearwardly of a rear of the frame member, and has a mounting bracket extending through an opening in the rear panel toward the valve block.

10. The actuator panel of claim 6, wherein said first position of the levers moves the respective spool to drive the powered machine in a rearward direction, the levers having a central axis and extending above an upper panel of the frame for manual operation, said actuator rod being positioned substantially perpendicular to the central axis of the levers below the upper panel of the frame, and the actuator bracket on the pivoting actuator panel passing through a rear wall of the frame to align with the actuator rods on the levers, the actuator bracket having adjustment slots therein for receiving

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fasteners to secure the actuator bracket to the pivoting panel.

11. A powered machine having a frame, drive
5 members on opposite sides of said frame controllable
by hydraulic motors, the powered machine being
operable by an operator standing on the surface
supporting the machine, and at the rear of the
machine, a hydraulic control valve at the rear of the
10 machine and having valves with actuator levers for
controlling the respective motors for driving the
drive members to move the machine in forward and
selectively reverse directions as well as having a
neutral position, the actuator levers extending above
15 the frame for manual operation by an operator
standing at the rear of the machine, and a pivoting
actuator mounted to the frame and having a portion
that extends outwardly from the rear of the frame,
said actuator having a bracket mounted thereon, said
20 actuator being urged to extend outwardly from the
machine under a bias force, and being pivotable to
move inwardly when a force is provided on the
actuator tending to move the actuator toward the rear
of the frame, said bracket engaging a portion of the
25 respective lever when the respective lever is in a
position to drive the respective drive member in
reverse and moveable to a position under such force
to move the respective levers to their stopped
position.

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12. The machine of claim 11, wherein said actuator comprises an actuator panel extending laterally across the rear portions of the frame, and having brackets for pivotally mounting the panel on
5 opposite sides of the frame.

13. The machine of claim 11, wherein the portion of the lever comprises actuator rods extending outwardly from the levers, and said levers
10 being pivotally mounted to the valve for pivotal movement between its positions.

14. The machine of claim 12, wherein said actuator panel inclines rearwardly and downwardly
15 from its pivotal mounting.

15. The machine of claim 12, wherein said actuator panel has a pair of mounting brackets that are pivotally mounted to side members of the frame,
20 said mounting brackets extending rearwardly through openings in a rear wall of the frame, the actuator panel having a lower portion that extends outwardly from the rear of the frame a greater distance than an upper portion, whereby forces engaging the lower
25 portion tend to pivot the actuator panel to a position to move the levers from a rearward drive position to the stopped position.

add all

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